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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/807,353
	Filing Date	April 12, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Dharshini C. Fongalland
	Art Unit	1723
	Examiner Name	Krishnan S. Menon
Total Number of Pages in This Submission 8	Attorney Docket No	JMYT-234US

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ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT			
Firm or Individual	Christopher R. Lewis, RatnerPrestia	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	36,201
Signature			
Date	April 2, 2003		

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JMYT-234US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dharshini C. Fongalland et al. : Art Unit: 1723
Serial No.: 09/807,353 : Examiner: Krishnan S. Menon
Filed: April 12, 2001 :
For: SUBSTRATE :

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

S I R :

In response to the Office Action dated January 2, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows and reconsider the application in view of the amendments and remarks provided below:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1, 10, and 14 with the following amended claims:

- 1 1. (Once amended) A substrate, suitable for the preparation of a
2 composite membrane, which substrate comprises a porous non-woven sheet of fibres,
3 characterised in that the fibres comprise mixed amorphous silica fibres that are bound
4 with a binder.
- 1 10. (Twice amended) A composite membrane comprising a porous
2 substrate of fibres and at least one ion-conducting polymer, characterised in that the
3 substrate comprises a porous non-woven sheet of mixed amorphous silica fibres bound
4 with a binder.
- 1 14. (Twice Amended) A process for the manufacture of a substrate,
2 comprising the steps of
3 (a) dispersing mixed amorphous silica fibres in water to form a slurry;
4 (b) depositing the slurry onto a mesh bed to form a fibre network;
5 (c) drying and compacting the fibre network; and
6 (d) applying, before or after step (c), a dispersion of binder.